

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

J

TOWARD A BETTER YEAR!

It seems everyone wants an improved 2021! But, will we get it? Guard against the fantasy that simply because the last year was so deplorable, the next has to be better. Given the sociological changes happening, I don't think it will. This does not make me a negative person, nor a person who doesn't trust God. I don't trust the human race either in terms of collective wisdom, or in its sinful motivation. I trust God, my Savior, and seek to navigate the uncertain waters of current events by faith.

A

I recall seeing how Pastor Paul declined over the years, and how a desire for better was often not met. Rather, with greater age and the encroachment of Dementia, his struggles multiplied. As we march toward Glory, we should not expect that our journey will ease, but in several respects become more difficult. We may have serenity and confidence because of our Lord, Jesus Christ. 2021 will be a superb year, for it will be on the pathway toward life eternal with our Lord!

N

U

RECOVERY FROM COVID-19 (THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS!)

December developed into a trying time for me, as not only did I have the virus and double pneumonia, for the first time in 32 years of pastoral ministry I missed the Christmas Eve. and Christmas Day services! Pastors have our own code of honor that we do not miss such services unless we are dying. I was not close to dying, but was miserable enough to be checked into the hospital for three days.

A

R

There seems to be no certainty in regard to the virus's effects, but I am convinced that the mercy of God and a long term vigorous health regimen were the fundamental drivers of my quick recovery. I was blessed to only need slight supplemental oxygen, and have been bouncing back strongly! Though she was not tested, Connie also likely had the virus, so we quarantined together. She is recovering more slowly, but steadily. THANK YOU for your prayers to lift us up!

Y

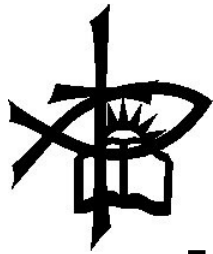
FALLING BEHIND

Do you find yourself getting further behind in terms of activities and responsibilities? As the days go on, do you note that informally planned tasks are shunted to the side, then forgotten, and regularly necessary things such as balancing the checkbook is never done? Many do not even know what the account balances are, much less whether they are being charged interest on the accounts.

2021

What about cleaning up? Dust bunnies multiplying in your home? Cobwebs?

The Word Today
Box 77
Greendale, WI
53129



*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

JANUARY

2

0

2

1

Are you a prisoner to essentially meaningless addictive activities? Binge watch much? Play video games for hours? How much time do you really spend on curating your Facebook or other social media profiles? YouTube consumes how much of your time per week?

The multi-media giants and electronics powerhouses are teaming up to enslave you unwittingly. Through technological encroachment, ever so slowly they desire to command your time. More time given to them means more money for them. It also translates to less control over your life. You end up mismanaging your time, which causes general and relational stress, poorer decisions, sleep issues, poor money management and impulsive buying decisions, etc. In other words, you fall behind.

I intentionally limit the amount of technological spill over into my life. I limit how much TV is watched, have eliminated video game playing altogether years ago, and do not have involvement in social media – perhaps one of the wisest choices technologically that I have made. I have limited the number of email accounts and actively seek to limit texting. I do not have a phone with me 24/7, do not curate all email accounts constantly, and do not respond instantly to all messages. I aggressively eliminate all non-necessary correspondence. Our phone at home hangs up on any number without identification (apologies to those who do not show I.D., but this was the only way to stop harassing telemarketing!). Mentally, as a consumer, I am against any company that has as its business plan the encroachment upon free time and the goal of manipulation of the individual such that they increasingly give their life to media puppets.

NO LONGER PUNISHED

What would happen if crimes were not punished? We can anticipate a longitudinal study of this decision, a new “prosecutorial approach”, to arise from the Los Angeles County’s head prosecutor, George Gascon’s announcement that the following will no longer be prosecuted; trespassing, disturbing the peace, a minor in possession of alcohol, driving without a license, driving with a suspended license, making criminal threats, drug and paraphernalia possession, being under the influence of a controlled substance, public intoxication, loitering to commit prostitution and resisting arrest.

The article, “Here’s a list of crimes on LA’s new DA’s do-not-prosecute list”, quotes him as saying, “For decades tough-on-crime advocates, the private prison industry, the bail industry and law enforcement unions -- all organizations that profit off taking away your liberties -- they sold us a false narrative that more police, stiffer penalties and more people locked up in prison made us safer.” I can hear the moving semi-trucks starting up their engines!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder